

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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DELBERT DOUGLAS,

Plaintiff,

v.

ARNOLD WEINSTOCK, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:20-CV-0393-MMD-CLB

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
OF U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE¹

On June 26, 2020, plaintiff, an inmate in the custody of the Nevada Department of Corrections (“NDOC”) submitted a civil rights complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. (ECF No. 1-1). Plaintiff neither paid the full filing fee nor submitted an application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Therefore, on October 27, 2020, the court ordered plaintiff to do so on or before December 7, 2020 (ECF No. 3). To date, plaintiff has failed to do so.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. Of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party’s failure to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); *Carey*

¹ This Report and Recommendation is made to the Honorable Miranda M. Du, United States District Judge. The action was referred to the undersigned Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and the Local Rules of Practice IB 1-4.

1 *v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal for failure to comply with local
2 rule requiring *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal*
3 *Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order);
4 *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (dismissal for lack of
5 prosecution and failure to comply with local rules).

6 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey
7 a court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors:
8 (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to
9 manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring
10 disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.
11 *Thompson*, 782 F.2d 831; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130;
12 *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

13 Here, the court finds the first two factors, the public's interest in expeditiously
14 resolving this litigation and the court's interest in managing the docket, weigh in favor of
15 dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs in favor of
16 dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay
17 in filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See *Anderson v. Air*
18 *West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor – public policy favoring
19 disposition of cases on their merits – is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor of
20 dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a court's warning that his failure to obey the court's
21 order will result in dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives" requirement.
22 *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d 1424. The
23 court's order expressly stated: "If plaintiff does not file a fully complete application to
24 proceed *in forma pauperis* with all three documents or pay the fully \$400 filing fee for a
25 civil action on or before December 7, 2020, the court will dismiss this action without
26 prejudice" (ECF No. 3). Thus, plaintiff had adequate warning that dismissal would
27 result from his noncompliance with the court's order.
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1 Therefore, the undersigned magistrate judge recommends that this action be
2 dismissed without prejudice for failure to pay the filing fee or file a fully complete
3 application to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

4 The parties are advised:


5 1. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 636(b)(1)(C) and Rule IB 3-2 of the Local Rules of
6 Practice, the parties may file specific written objections to this report and recommendation
7 within fourteen days of receipt. These objections should be entitled "Objections to
8 Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation" and should be accompanied by points
9 and authorities for consideration by the District Court.
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11 2. This report and recommendation is not an appealable order and any notice
12 of appeal pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 4(a)(1) should not be filed until entry of the District
13 Court's judgment.
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15 **RECOMMENDATION**

16 For the reason stated above, the undersigned Magistrate Judge recommends that
17 the District Court enter an order **DISMISSING** this action without prejudice.

18 DATED: December 14, 2020.

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22 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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